	JC2AAPARC Conference	ce					
1	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK						
2	X						
3	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,						
4	V.	19 CR 725 (JPO)					
5	LEV PARNAS, ET AL.,						
6	Defendants.						
7	x						
8		New York, N.Y. December 2, 2019					
9	Before:	2:00 p.m.					
10	HON. J. PAUL OETKEN,						
11		District Judge					
12	A DDF A DAN	-					
13	APPEARANCES GEOFFREY S. BERMAN						
14	United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York REBEKAH A. DONALESKI NICOLAS L. ROOS DOUGLAS S. ZOLKIND						
15							
16	Assistant United States Attor	cneys					
17	JOSEPH A. BONDY  Attorney for Defendant Parnas						
18	EDWARD B. MACMAHON, JR.						
19	Attorney for Defendant Parnas						
20	TODD BLANCHE Attorney for Defendant Frumar	n					
21	WILLIAM J. HARRINGTON	1					
22	Attorney for Defendant Corre	ia					
23	GERALD LEFCOURT FAITH FRIEDMAN						
24	Attorney for Defendant Kukushkin						
25							

JC2AAPARC Conference

(Case called)

2	MR.	ZOLKIND:	Good	afternoon,	your	Honor.

Douglas Zolkind, Rebecca Donaleski and Nicolas Roos, for the government

THE COURT: Good afternoon.

MR. BONDY: Good afternoon, your Honor.

Joseph A. Bondy, on behalf of Lev Parnas, who is seated to my right.

MR. MACMAHON: Edward McMahon, for Mr. Parnas, as well.

MR. BLANCHE: Todd Blanche, for Mr. Fruman who's been excused with the Court's permission.

MR. LEFCOURT: Gerald Lefcourt and Faith Friedman, for Mr. Kukushkin who was excused but for the arraignment, your Honor.

MR. HARRINGTON: William Harrington, for David Correia, who is also excused and waives --

THE COURT: He waives his appearance today.

Welcome everybody. As you know, the defendants were arraigned and appeared for an initial conference, two initial conferences before me on October 17 and October 23. I scheduled this conference to get an update on the discovery process to schedule any further proceedings and to address any other issues the parties would like to raise. As I said, we have counsel for all four defendants today and I granted a

request to waive the presence of Mr. Kukushkin and also Mr. Correia based on Mr. Harrington's request.

I'd like to begin by asking counsel for the government about discovery. At the initial conference you described the categories of discovery and indicated that it would be fairly voluminous. If you could update me on the status of production and discovered to the defendants, Mr. Zolkind.

MR. ZOLKIND: Certainly, your Honor. And it is voluminous and we're prepared to go into some greater detail today about what has been produced and what we foresee coming in future upcoming productions.

So first, after having productive discussions with the defense about a protective order which is now in place, the government made an initial production of discovery on the 21st of November. So that production consists of a few categories as follows:

First, it includes a substantial volume of documents obtained by subpoena and other requests but mainly subpoena. That includes extensive phone records, bank records, records produced by internet providers like Google or Facebook, as well as records produced by various witnesses, individuals or companies, among other categories of subpoena responses.

As I said, it's voluminous well into the thousands of files and I have well over nine gigabytes of data. That's all.

THE COURT: You said that was produced November 21?

MR. ZOLKIND: That's correct, your Honor.

The next category consists of search warrants and the accompanying affidavits for those search wants, so the warrants themselves and the affidavits. And within that category there are a few subcategories. There were multiple search warrants on e-mail accounts. That's one. Multiple search warrants on iCloud accounts. There were search warrants executed on certain physical premises. And then there were search warrants executed on electronic devices. Some of those devices were seized from the person of the certain defendants upon their arrest. Other devices were seized at a physical premises.

And it would be useful I'm happy to go into more detail about how many devices and which device is for each defendants had.

THE COURT: If you would please.

MR. ZOLKIND: So with respect to Mr. Parnas, there are six devices that were seized incident to his arrest and that includes one Samsung device, one iPad, two iPhones and another cellphone. And then eight devices that were seized in connection with the search of his residence and that includes an Apple MacBook, Samsung Galaxy phone, three iPhones, one iPad and hard drive and thumb drive.

With respect to Mr. Fruman, there are three devices seized incident to his arrest. That's two iPhones and one SIM card, eight devices seized from his residence consisting of one

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

satellite phone, one iPad, one SIM card, three thumb drives or SD cards, another cellphone and a Google device.

With respect to Mr. Kukushkin, there was one device, an iPhone seized incident to his arrest.

And with respect to Mr. Correia, there were three devices seized from a package that he transmitted and that consists of one iPhone, one laptop, a Surface Pro and an external hard drive, as well as certain handwritten materials in the SIM package.

So that I think is an overview of the search warrants and the accompanying affidavits that have now been produced in discovery. The next main category of material has been produced in discovery is the entirety of any account that was searched to the extent that we have it in our possession has been produced or if we don't have it yet in our possession, will be as soon as we do, will be to the specific defendant whose account it is or whose device it is. Just so that's clear, if for example a specific defendant's e-mail account was searched, as soon as we have that e-mail account in our possession, our intention has been and will continue to be to produce that entire e-mail account just to that specific defendant without any delay.

Same thing for devices. Once a device extracted once we have it in our possession and we will be able review, without delay, we are going to provide that entire extraction

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

to whichever defendant is the owner of that device. And so that has begun happening and as I'll get into, that's a process that will continue as we get access to additional accounts or devices.

So again, just to make clear what the government's plan is, we have had some discussions with defense counsel about this but obviously, to the extent there are documents on any of the devices or any of the accounts that are responsive to the search warrants, the responsive documents will be produced in discovery to all of the defendants. But each defendant will in addition to that get the full extraction of their device or the full contents of that defendant's personal account.

That is essentially the state as to what has been produced today or as of today. I think it's a voluminous production of discovery. But certainly, there's additional stuff that's coming and so I'm happy to get into what that would be.

THE COURT: Please do. Let me just ask, there were no wiretaps in the case; is that right?

MR. ZOLKIND: That's correct.

THE COURT: OK.

MR. ZOLKIND: With respect to upcoming discovery, the government's investigation is itself ongoing. And so in connection with the ongoing investigation there are subpoenas

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

that are continuing to be served and the results of subpoenas that we're continuing to get in and documents that we're continuing to get in from other sources, as we receive those materials to the extent they are discoverable in this case, we'll produce them promptly.

The next main category is materials that are responsive to the various search warrants. So the search warrants that I've just described before, the e-mail accounts, iCloud devices, the government is diligently working through all of the returns that we've gotten so far. We haven't gotten all of them to identify documents that are responsive to the terms of those warrants and we are going to begin making productions of those responsive documents to all of the defendants on a rolling basis.

We expect, with respect to the materials currently in our possession our goal and we think it's a realistic goal is to be substantially complete in producing responsive documents from that universe within about the next 60 days. But again, it'll be on a rolling basis. I guess it might be helpful just to note some of the reasons. It is a time-consuming process. Although, we're handling it very diligently but there's been issues raised not unreasonably by the defense about privilege So we have in place, as we've said, before a filter team or a taint team to examine those documents before they're released to the prosecution team for our review. So that had

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

been playing out, will continue to play out and we're hoping to get through that material as quickly as possible. That's with respect to documents that are already in our possession.

With respect to documents that are not yet in our possession, the situation is a little bit different and that relates mostly to all of those devices that I went through before. As the Court may know, it is not always the quickest process to get into a device. Oftentimes devices are encrypted with passwords. And so the FBI's technical experts are working over-time to extract that material as quickly as possible to enable us to, A, provide full extraction to the defendant whose device it is and also to enable us to review it and produce responsive materials in discovery.

It is, of course, the case if any defendant were to provide us the password for a device, that would allows to provide the defendant with discovery from that device much more expeditiously. But in the absence of receiving any passwords, the FBI's technical team is going through the process of extracting that material as quickly as possible.

THE COURT: OK.

MR. ZOLKIND: I think that is essentially the update as to discovery unless the Court has any questions.

THE COURT: So the 60 days that you mentioned that would be early February, you were talking about those materials that are already in your possession? The others, it's harder

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

to make an estimation.

MR. ZOLKIND: It's very difficult. Once we learn that a device has been extracted, then we can provide a much more concrete estimate of how long it'll take us to review it and provide the responsive materials and answer. We expect in most cases is going to be that we can do that very promptly. So the delay should not be in terms of time it takes to review the materials but just in terms of the technical process of getting into these devices in the absence of having a password.

THE COURT: OK.

MR. ZOLKIND: We can certainly provide the Court with a written or oral update at that 60 day mark. I'm sure we'll be in touch with the defense in any event but just to keep everyone apprized as to where we stand.

THE COURT: OK. All right. Thank you.

I'll hear from counsel for each of the defendants. What I intended to do it being December 2nd was to ask you about your progress in reviewing the discovery. However, given what's been described, I assume you are not all done reviewing the discovery. I've given that it looks like you've got a bunch of stuff on November 21st. But really what I'd like to do is hear from each of you as to any issues you want to raise about the discovery or anything else and then hear from you about whether we are in a position is set a date for motions, whether you have any motions contemplated or if we're not in

Conference

that position yet. Then to set a conference down the road where we would come back and set a date for any motions if you know that you are going to file any motions.

So I'll start with Mr. Bondy.

MR. BONDY: Thank you, your Honor.

We've received the hard drive that we've given to the government on I guess, the last appearance. We have about 70,000 pages that are on that hard drive and we're going to undertake our review. We fear that that's perhaps not even the majority of the material once you get the extracted devices that we're waiting for the discovery on. So I'm not sure whether we can really set a meaningful motion schedule today or even a trial date.

THE COURT: OK. Mr. Blanche.

MR. BLANCHE: Thanks, judge. Just, I don't have anything. We have not even really gotten to review the discovery. We just received it recently from the government. And I have spoken with the government on a few occasions about the status of I think the most significant discovery which in my view would include the electronic media, the phones and data that is on those. So without that, I'm not sure we can really move forward.

I'm a little bit concerned that in 60 days, that the 60 days doesn't even include that. I mean, the case was indicted in October. It is now December. When the government

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

says it's not their possession, it is in their possession, it's just in the possession of the FBI, I assume.

And as far as unlocking devices and needing passwords, I was never asked to provide a password on behalf Mr. Fruman. I haven't talked to him about it. But that's certainly something we can discuss. I'm concerned about the time that it's going to take and I'm concerned about getting discovery at some point I guess after February 2nd in a case that was indicted in October.

So I would ask that the Court -- I don't know what the Court should do. If it's not there, it's not there. shouldn't be waiting five/six months after an indictment to see the material from the respective cellphones and computers. I'm not sure why the delay of that long.

But I agree with Mr. Bondy. There's not much -- we don't have it. So there's not much we can do about setting a motion schedule at this point.

THE COURT: Or a trial.

MR. BLANCHE: Or a trial date, which we at the last conferenced had discussed doing as well. And I had certainly voiced to everybody about the desire for a trial date on behalf of Mr. Fruman for this summer, as soon as June. I think it's a little aggressive and given what everybody has said today and I recognize that. But the idea that the government's continuing to investigate and there are grand jury subpoenas that are out

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

there, those subpoenas are for a different investigation. don't get to keep on issuing grand jury subpoena for the same The case is indicted. It's a four-count indictment. I do want to set a trial date today, if possible. I say that but we don't have discovery yet really. So, I don't think it's fruitful to do so.

THE COURT: Well, even at the current state of the case, the four counts, it's going to be 60 days before you get, I guess, the bulk of responsive material or relevant materials in their session now. So we're not in a position to set a motion schedule it sounds like.

MR. BLANCHE: Correct. But again, the reason why I'm not just sitting down and saying that's right is because but what are we going to do in 60 days? In 60 days if we come back here, we still haven't received any electronic media because it's still taking longer than 60 days. How long does it take? I don't want to just continue to kick the can down the road before we set a trial date. I think if the Court does set a trial date it puts pressure on the government to get everything out and do whatever needs to be done. Even if the trial date is longer than what I would hope which would be the summer or even fall, at least it's a date we can all work off of and it puts pressure on the FBI and whoever else has media to get through it.

> Mr. Harrington. THE COURT: OK.

MR. HARRINGTON: I agree, judge.

The only thing I would add is that the delays the government described in discovery don't really apply to the sorts of things that if things were moving faster that would normally be able to start to tell us as we got to a trial date such as witness, what are they saying? What are the documents they want to rely on? So this really long delay seems to me shouldn't be at the benefit of the government of not telling us what their case is. This is all stuff that they're largely talking about the delay and stuff they never even seen yet. So there's a lot of stuff that they have seen, they could describe to us. They could tell us what they intend to do in terms of a trial and things like that and I don't know that we need to hold that off till the last minute just because they're taking a lot of time.

THE COURT: Well, the indictment has a fair amount of detail in it.

MR. HARRINGTON: In the normal course it would be, obviously, a sooner trial date, and at some point the government would be required to tell us about who the witnesses are, what they are going to be saying. There's a lot of detail they we would get as that trial came up.

Here, where the trial date is being pushed off because the government is seeking to open dozens of devices, they have no idea what is on them, it seems to delay all of that is

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

unnecessary, that that stuff should be expedited, so that then perhaps we could turn around and have a quicker trial date once they've unlocked these various devices.

THE COURT: OK. Would your preference be to set a trial date say in the fall or to come back in two or three months?

MR. HARRINGTON: I think it would be hard to set the trial date without knowing when they're going to finish. preference would be to find out what witnesses are saying. All the sorts of stuff that we would get right before trial, rather than have to get that at the same time we're getting a load of dozens documents, get that stuff now so we can ingest it then later on when we get a load of electronic documents. There is really no reason why they can't get the indictment in the case, prepare to go to trial on the evidence they had, presumably. So this black box of materials that they're now sifting through I don't think should slow down everything else.

THE COURT: OK. Mr. Lefcourt.

MR. LEFCOURT: Your Honor, I think that there is a new mechanism to deal with some of these issues. Today, as you may know, your Honor, is the first day of the new Federal Discovery Rule 16.1, which I've handed up an article. And the reason why I handed up that article, it's written by John Siffert who is a member of the Federal Rules Committee that adopted this new rule and he also is of Sand/Siffert fame, modern federal jury

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

instructions. And it provides a better look at this. I think this may be the first change in Rule 16 maybe in my lifetime.

But the idea was defendants like these are faced with discovery as usual nowadays which is, we gave them a terabyte hard drive which by the way, I didn't get back until this past Wednesday on the eve of Thanksqiving. And the discovery that we can see very quickly by trying to scroll through it and look at the letter that the government supplied with 70,000 Bates numbers, this is without the electronic discovery, what you see is search warrant affidavits that are like this.

So there's 26 blank blacked out pages on one warrant and we still don't know when that's coming. I don't know what that is about. Apparently, the government has sought and received permission to blank out material unbeknownst to defense without notice to the defense. So we don't really have any meaningful discovery. There are tens of thousands of bank records. We don't know whether they're relevant. Should we sit down and start reading bank records? That's absurd. And I think the Rule 16.1 contemplates a different realm, a whole different way of proceeding.

One of the things that the Court may do right now to make discovery more meaningful is to have the government provide a draft exhibit list so we can look at the exhibits that they intend to introduce. Now it doesn't have to be binding. They could always add to it when they need to but the

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

least I could look at an exhibit and then look at discovery and see what that exhibit informs. And also to consider 3500 material on an earlier production than normal. I agree with Mr. Harrington. We have no sense of this case. And so 16.1 talks about getting defendants ready for trial. It is a new way to look at these things. And so that's what I would advocate.

I can't think that you could possibly set a motion schedule. We have no idea how much time it's going to take to get through all of this. So I think that we have to wait for another conference. But in the meantime if the Court could consider a draft exhibit list that's nonbinding and 3500 material on a early basis, then we can start talking about trial preparations, motions and the like.

THE COURT: OK. Do you want to respond to that, Mr. Zolkind?

MR. ZOLKIND: I would, your Honor.

Let me just try to pick through some of the main points that were raised. Maybe I'll start at last point. government would object to needing to have put together an exhibit list now without even a trial date set. I don't think there's precedent for that, nor do I think it's really feasible on our end or necessary. The reason I don't think it's necessary is, among other things, that the defense has received in discovery are, as I said, numerous search warrants and

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

affidavits. And those affidavits do go through in quite a bit of the detail as the Court knows, the allegations and the evidence. And so that is undoubtedly going to be a helpful guide as they go through the other discovery they've received.

We on the government's side are also happy to be in touch with defense counsel and happy to the extent there's questions, whether we can direct them to certain bank records or help explain why something is in discovery, we're happy to have those conversations and so far haven't been asked but we stand certainly ready to do that.

With respect to the redacted pages of certain search warrant material, as the Court knows, there is an order in place under Rule 16(D). Without going into the basis for it, obviously, it was a sealed ex parte application. redactions don't relate to the charged case. So they're there. There is a time limit that the Court set on the Rule 16(D) order. It's subject to renewal for good cause but absent a request for renewal and the Court finding good cause, the defense will receive the un-redacted materials in -- I have to check -- I think it's March or April. But the un-redacted pages are themselves a pretty detailed guide to the evidence in this case. So that's one point.

Secondly, with respect to motions certainly the government doesn't object if the consensus is not to set a motion schedule but nor do we think it would be unreasonable to

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

sunset one right now. The defense has not the warrants. have the accompanying affidavits. They have the indictment and so with respect to the couple things that have been redacted or withheld pursuant to the Rule 16(D) order, they do have the materials that would presumably form on the basis of either a motion directed at the indictment or a motion to suppress.

So again, we don't, we're not objecting if they prefer to defer that for some period of time. But I don't think that the fact that it's taking some period of time to extract numerous electronic devices has anything do with a request to put off a motion schedule.

With respect to the question of whether there's an unreasonable delay that's going on with respect to the devices is defendants were arrested and the searches through which the devices were obtained, all happened in October, we're now in early December. That is not a significant passage of time. The FBI has I said is working extremely hard to extract these devices. And if any of the defendants want to receive that discovery on a much, much quicker timetable, they can provide us with the passwords and I expect they would have the devices within a matter of days. They would have the extraction of their devices.

THE COURT: Are there many devices for which you have not been able to get passwords?

MR. ZOLKIND: We have not been given passwords by the

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

defendants to any of the devices.

THE COURT: Have you asked?

MR. ZOLKIND: We have had some of those discussions. But it is probably true, we haven't made a formal request to each of them and so, but as I say, we're happy to have that discussion and talk more generally about how we can help guide them through the discovery.

THE COURT: So what do you say to the suggestion of some of the defense counsel that it's kind of putting things out of order but did you give them some version of 3500 material earlier and/or possible exhibit list at this point on the assumption that when you indicted you were ready to go to trial in the case. Could you give them some more direction by doing something like that's. What is your response to that request?

MR. ZOLKIND: Your Honor, we would strongly oppose that request. Number one, there is an ongoing investigation and so producing witness statements, any of month moment earlier than is normal appropriate we think would risk compromising that investigation. But there is also just -- we are not in a place where a trial is scheduled. I guess if we were forced to come up with a witness list we could but that is not something that is normally set at this stage in the case. Neither were exhibits set. And so again, I think the defense is not without a place they can look to see how the various

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

piece of evidence fits together. There are numerous search warrants an affidavits that walk through that evidence and in some detail and so I think that is really the best quide that they have and really should answer the question with respect to turning over 3500 material our strong preference would be to do that as teas done in as far as I'll I am aware in every single criminal case in district which is a reasonable period of time in advance of trial.

THE COURT: What do you think would be a reasonable period of time to come back for another conference to set a motion schedule? And I'll ask defense counsel this as well.

MR. ZOLKIND: As I said, I think a motion schedule could be set today because they have the warrants. They have the indictments. So I'm not sure why seeing the extraction of the devices is relevant to whether or not they have a viable The connection there is not obvious to me. And so I think we could set a motion to any motion based on a warrant, any motion based an indictment, that schedule could be set today and if some future production of discovery gives rise to a new motion, we could have another motion schedule at that point. If the defense prefers to defer it for some period of time, as I said, we don't object, but it's not clear to us that at least many of the most common motions couldn't be scheduled today.

THE COURT: Well, let me hear from defense counsel

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

about that. Do you know if just based on warrants in the indictment whether there's any motion directed at the warrants or indictment any of you want to make?

MR. BLANCHE: I don't agree that not having the underlying material, that doesn't matter. There are certain motions that can be made depending on what the underlying -shows, for example, a Bruton motion. Or we may not choose to suppression, seek to suppress items from the search depending on what the actual search results were.

So it is difficult -- unless we're going to set two motion schedules -- to set a motion schedule today without having the benefit of at least the majority of the underlying materials, for example, that were taken during the course of the searches. So I would prefer to not set a motion schedule or to set a motion schedule that's very far out which allows the government to produce a lot more of the discovery before we decide what motions to make.

THE COURT: Well if there's any motion you based on the indictment or a problem with one of the warrants, I don't know why you can't make those now. If there's a motion about some other issue, Bruton or something else, then that would --

MR. BLANCHE: There are certainly certain motions we could make now, agreed. We have the affidavits, parts are redacted and we have the indictment itself. So there are other motions that we might in my definition want to make.

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

why I said we either should wait or I was supposed to set a motion schedule as far enough out that let's us spend more time with discovery or -- would be pretrial motions as well.

THE COURT: Right. Of course. So I'm open to either option. We could either set a date for motions a few months out or if you want to come back in whatever would be a reasonable period of time to talk about any discovery issues and to actually set a schedule or motions, I'm fine with that as well.

MR. HARRINGTON: I agree. We should come back in 45 days or 60 days and set a motion schedule.

MR. LEFCOURT: Your Honor, I agree. But I also wanted to respond a little bit to the government.

THE COURT: Sure.

MR. LEFCOURT: They presented a case to a grand jury. They put in documents, presumably. They marked exhibits, presumably. And the indictment is then returned. Those are grand jury exhibits that if we had now it would focus us on what we should be looking at by way of the discovery. It's a very simple proposition. They shouldn't be bound that this is every exhibit that they are ever going to offer in evidence. If they want to supplement at a later time, fine.

Also, it hasn't been mentioned but it should that some of these things are going to be in foreign languages. We have I think Russian and maybe Ukrainian, as well in some of this

stuff.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

Also, the government's discovery letter pointed to 13 categories of information that if we wanted to look at it we have to come to the U.S. Attorney's Office. I don't know what that material is. I don't know whether it's worth looking at but if I had a draft exhibit list, I would have a better idea. It's pretty simple.

THE COURT: Well, the search warrant affidavits go through what the evidence is. It talks about communications and e-mails and texts. What more do you need?

MR. LEFCOURT: The actual transcripts that were before the grand jury that they focus on and any financial records that they focused on with the grand jury, it would give us a way to focus also.

THE COURT: Do you want to respond to that? Why can't you just give them what you gave the grand jury?

MR. ZOLKIND: Well, certainly, the transcript of the proceedings before the grand jury are secret and can't be To the extent discoverable evidence was shown to disclosed. the grand jury, it was already or not already, will be produced in discovery to the defense. And as I've said, we're not intending to hide the ball. So Mr. Lefcourt calls us up and asks for some quidance, understanding, the different financial records, happy to help him with that.

What I'm resisting is the idea that we should have to

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

put together some index of the case or months before a trial is scheduled, identify exhibits. There are complex white collar cases charged in this district all the time. I'm not familiar with that ever being required of the government and don't think it would make sense to require of the government in this case or in any that I can think of.

I mean, the discovery is voluminous. We're certainly willing to agree to a schedule for a trial and motions that gives the defense ample time to review the discovery. I'm happy to help them if they have questions. But I think committing us to coming up with an exhibit list is just very premature and would be under inclusive and probably over-inclusive in a way that wouldn't be fair to the government.

THE COURT: Well, I mean I generally agree. I don't think this is the kind of case where a bill of particulars is required. What's set forth in the indictment is extensive and fairly straightforward in one sense. It's true that the discovery has been consistent with a bunch of communications because there are a bunch of electronic communications that are what's the focus of the indictment. But I don't think this is a situation where you can't tell what's being alleged to be the charged conduct. It's relatively clear. So I am not going to require some unusual kind of early disclosure of exhibits or witness statements that are really not even I think within my

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

power to order disclosed.

But I think what I'll do is have you all come back in about two months, something like 60 days and talk about where I also encourage defense counsel to take government counsel up on the offer of to communicate with them and ask for quidance when there are particular things that could be helpful as discovery is continued to be produced. So what I would suggest is that we come back in about two months and then at that point set a motion schedule. Not sure if we'll set a trial date as well. We'll see where things are. Is there any update on whether you expect to supersede?

MR. ZOLKIND: Your Honor, certainly, the government's investigation is ongoing and we think a superseding indictment is likely. But no decision has been made certainly and so it's something that we are continuing to evaluate. There's really nothing else that we can say on that subject here except that certainly once a trial date is set the government will make every effort to ensure that a superseding indictment is brought sufficiently in advance of trial so as not to require any adjournment.

THE COURT: OK. Well, for now why don't we come back in two months. Is that OK with the government?

MR. ZOLKIND: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: Is that OK with defense counsel and defendants?

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

(yes)

THE COURT: All right. So let's pick a date. could do February 3rd which is a Monday. I could do either a morning or afternoon.

MR. ZOLKIND: Fine for the government.

MR. BONDY: Fine for us, your Honor.

THE COURT: Morning or afternoon?

MR. BONDY: Afternoon.

THE COURT: Shall we do two o'clock on February 3rd? All right. So the next conference will be February 3rd, 2020, at two o'clock p.m. I'm not sure if it'll be in this courtroom or another courtroom. We are having a lot of elevator issues in this building. I'll let you all know on ECF where it's going to be. And at that conference I would anticipate talking about where you are in terms of both the government's ongoing production, defendant's review of the discovery and hopefully we'll be in a position to set a schedule if there are any anticipated motions.

MR. BONDY: Couple other things, your Honor. As the Court probably knows, since our last appearance Mr. Parnas has indicated that he wishes to comply with the House Intelligence Committee subpoena. And Item 11 of that subpoena, the items requested, are all of the discovery materials that have been seized in this case. So we just want to be put on the record that he is attempting to be compliant. We've asked the

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

government if they would help us with this. At this point we don't have the lion's share of these materials but through no fault of Mr. Parnas, number one.

Number two, and I'm not sure if the Court wants to address it now, we have asked the government if they would be willing to modify the terms of Mr. Parnas' supervision just to give him a couple hours a day so that he can be a dad with his five children, exercise and just lead his life. He has been fully compliant in every term of release. He is here in court today. He does have a GPS monitor. But we would ask the Court if possible to just afford him an opportunity a few times a week or everyday, two hours a day just so that he can be outside.

THE COURT: Would you like to respond?

MR. ZOLKIND: Yes, your Honor.

With respect to the point about Mr. Parnas' desire to comply with the House subpoena, the parties have agreed to a protective order which the Court has signed. That document controls any parties' ability to produce documents to any third party, which would include Congress. But we've certainly said we're happy to be in discussions with Mr. Parnas' counsel and to work with him, to not object, to request that he may make to the Court, to provide Congress with materials that were in his personal possession at the time he received Congress's subpoena and which may not be in his possession now because they were

seized by the government.

So with respect to that category of material that will be forth coming in discovery, we're certainly willing to have those conversations in a way that we hope can be productive.

THE COURT: So now these are things which are expected to be produced within the 60 days give --

MR. ZOLKIND: No. I think what we're talking about here are really Mr. Parnas' devices. So in other words, to the extent that he had material in his devices that would be responsive to a congressional subpoena and he had that in possession at the time when he received the subpoena, doesn't have it now because his devices were seized. Once those devices are extracted either by the FBI going through its process or Mr. Parnas providing us with the password, he as I said, he'll get that full extraction. And then he would need leave of your Honor to provide any part of that to Congress. And what we said is if that's something that he had in his possession at the time he received a congressional subpoena, the government does not expect to object to such a request.

THE COURT: Does that answer the question?

MR. BONDY: I think so. The problem is there are a number of paper records that I understand have also been seized and we would like to have them turned over. We asked the government if they would just handle them over to the house and we don't have an answer to that. So if what I'm hearing today

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

is that they do not object to modification of a protective order so that we can comply with congressional subpoena, that might solve the issue. But again, I believe there's a number of records in the government's possession, paper records, that we still don't have and that we wish to turnover.

THE COURT: They are responsive to a subpoena from the House?

MR. BONDY: Yes. Because Item 11 to the rider of the subpoena indicates that we are to turnover everything that has been seized by the federal government by any law enforcement agency pursuant to search. So that would embrace everything in this case, your Honor.

THE COURT: Do you want to address the paper records issue?

MR. ZOLKIND: Yes, your Honor.

So part of the process that is going on right now in terms of both collecting and beginning the extraction of these electronic devices extends to a number of hard copy materials that were seized in these premises searches. So we are well on our way to scanning that material in. Once in it would be produced to Mr. Parnas. And same thing, if those were materials that were in his possession when he received a congressional subpoena, we are not going to be object to Mr. Parnas seeking leave of the Court to produce that material to Congress.

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

THE COURT: So there's no process by which I realize you are part of a completely separate branch of the government from the house. But there is no process by which the house would get the materials directly from the U.S. Attorney's Office.

MR. ZOLKIND: I don't want to say that there is no process by which that can happen. But I think the process we've talked about with Mr. Parnas' counsel and one that we think just makes the most sense since they're the ones in receipt of the subpoena, when they received this material from us in discovery to make a quick application to your Honor that we, as I said, don't expect to and then they can respond to the subpoena they've received.

THE COURT: OK. So that seems fine with me. certainly seems that there's a pubic interest in providing that material pursuant to a subpoena. And to the extent that there is going to be requests for exception to what's protected under the protective order for the purpose of producing it pursuant to a subpoena of the House Committee, I certainly expect to grant that request. So that will not be a problem from my end in terms of promptly granting that sort of request.

MR. BONDY: We're just concerned about the timing, obviously.

Right. Understood. My hope is given the THE COURT: public interest there, that the government would produce those 1 | materials as soon as possible.

MR. ZOLKIND: We will, your Honor.

THE COURT: OK.

MR. BONDY: And with respect to the pretrial supervision?

MR. ZOLKIND: I'm sorry. Let me just make sure my answer to the Court's last question was clear. With respect to producing that material as quickly as possible, I said we will. And I am talking about the paper materials that just need to be scanned in and made available.

With respect the electronic devices, the only way that can happen in the immediate future is for Mr. Parnas to provide us with a password. And that is a request that we've made of his counsel multiple times already in response to his request to provide this material to Congress. If we receive the passwords he'll get it right away and he can produce responsive materials to Congress and if he declines to provide us with a password, then we'll go through our process and make it available to be him as soon as it's available to us.

THE COURT: OK.

MR. ZOLKIND: With respect to the requested bail modification, the government objects to the request. I'm happy to address it now, your Honor, or defer to the Court whether you'd rather have it made in writing and solicit the views of Pretrial Services, but I am happy to summarize the government's

UCZAAFAN

position.

THE COURT: Why don't you summarize the government's position. I may ask for a letter as well.

MR. ZOLKIND: So first things first, your Honor, as we've said before, it's clear that Mr. Parnas presents a significant risk of flight, and just to go through quickly some of the main reasons.

Number one, our investigation reveals that he has extensive ties to foreign jurisdictions, notably, Ukraine where he has connections to high-level, powerful people there. He have has ties to a billionaire oligarch living in Vienna, someone who is fighting extradition on bribery charges. That's a person he has been paid by taking multiple trips to visit. He is someone who flies not just by commercial carrier but by private jet. The crime that he is currently charged with involves both foreign ties, i.e. facilitating donations from a foreign person to a U.S. political campaign. It also involves deceit, i.e., the straw donors. In addition to all of that, he is under investigation for additional crimes.

I think it's clear that both because of charged crimes and the additional crimes that he is under investigation for he has a significant incentive to flee and his ties give him place he could flee to and people who could certainly support him financially if he were to lose the money he's put up on bail.

So with respect to home detention specifically, we

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

think it is critical and it's important because the home detention with the electronic monitoring is what allows the government to a reasonable degree of confidence know where he is just about all the time. And if he were given the sort of free riding exception to once a day or a couple times a week leave and go spend time with his family, it would create these multiple blocks of time during which Pretrial Services has no practical ability to track, no ability to make sure he's not getting on a boat or if he is getting on a boat, he's not just going out for the afternoon or not attempting to flee or getting on a private plane or obtaining a passport through some illicit means. And if any of those things were to happen during a period that he was authorized not to be home, there's a significant risk that we wouldn't find out about it till it's too late to stop him at the airport or something like that.

So we think there is very good reason why he is on home detention right now with GPS monitoring along with the other conditions is sufficient to not require that he be detained pending trial but we would not consent to this proposed modification.

THE COURT:

MR. BONDY: Your Honor, as I understand, Mr. Parnas has GPS device on his ankle. That is to say, the government knows when he moves from one room to another in his home. is allowed to go to religious services which would mean he

JC2AAPARC Conference

would be out. He is present in court. He is out. He is allowed to see Mr. McMahon in Virginia and Washington D.C. He is allowed to see me in New York. He has five children living at home, four when his oldest son is back in law school. He is married. He lives in a relatively small gated community. And what we are asking is merely that he be allowed to get outside particularly since discovery is going to take as long as it's going to take and to do important things like exercise, spend time with his children and just get outside and see the air and the sun. If he had been detained he would be able to be outside at least for some period of time that's greater than the period of time that the government is now proposing. And so we respectfully request that he be afforded a modicum of time several times a week if you'd like to start, that he can be outside with his family and furthering his health.

THE COURT: I think what I would like is I usually like to get the Pretrial Services officer to do -- so, if you would submit a letter with a respect and indicate the Pretrial Services officer or you can indicate a response from the government and then I'll consider that request after hearing from you.

MR. BONDY: Thank you.

THE COURT: Did you want to add something else?

MR. LEFCOURT: Yes, your Honor.

I asked the government, as your Honor just did,

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

whether there was any electronic surveillance. And they said there is no Title III. I said, Is there any other kind of interception advice of warrant, any national security agency or other agencies interceptions in this matter? They said, there is no Title III.

I then wrote a letter pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 3504 which I've handed up to the Court. And in that letter, pursuant to that section, we request that the government check with all agencies that would have jurisdiction to determine whether there has been any interceptions. And the reason why I ask that, your Honor, is Count One has allegations which concern Ukraine with officials with the government of Ukraine as well as the United States embassador.

Count Four in which my client is charged the only count in this charge has allegations with a foreign national from Russia. Under the circumstances, I've watched part of those hearings. Our national security experts testified they were involved in various aspects which concern matters in this case. So under 3504, all the government has to do is affirm or deny after checking with the agencies that could be involved. It's not about Title III. It's about no authorization interceptions that could have occurred. And if they deny them, they deny them. What they have said is not only is there no Title III but they say that they do not intend to use any such surveillance. Not that there was no such surveillance, they

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

don't intend to use any such surveillance.

So I'm ask the Court to ask the government to respond to under 3504. They said it's premature because that applies to a proceeding. We are in a producing. We are in a hearing. We are an indicted case. This is the time. If there were such surveillance without any Court authorization, then there could flow from that taint of the evidence in this case. I do not know. But it's a reasonable request under 3504.

THE COURT: Are you looking for potentially exculpatory material under Brady?

MR. LEFCOURT: If there non Court authorized interception of my client with a foreign national or with other Ukrainians or what have you, that was the subject that started the investigation that led to evidence of investigation and it's not authorized by any court, the citizens of itself has the right to move to suppress it and any lengths leading to -so that is what we're looking for.

THE COURT: OK. This is not a statute that I've dealt with before but I may need to take a look at it.

Would you like to respond, Mr. Zolkind?

MR. ZOLKIND: It might just be useful to start -- I'll start by quoting part of what we said in response to the defense's letter. We said:

"As we have previously told you, the government did not obtain or use Title III intercepts in the course of this

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

investigation.

Additionally, the government does not intend to use any information that was obtained or derived from the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, (FISA) or other forms of surveillance identified in your letter.

We think that resolves any question. There was no Title III intercept. We can't comment on whether or not there existed a FISA intercept or some other sort of similar intercept. That information would be classified. But what we're saying is that we are not relying on such an intercept or on anything derived from such an intercept. So I think that resolves the question.

With respect to Section 3504, the government -- that statute and I'll confess I'm also not an expert in it -- is that, what I should say is we've spoken to people who are who deal with it on a more regular basis. Our understanding is that it applies in a proceeding, meaning a situation in which the government is offering evidence. So, hearing or trial or a grand jury proceeding, something like that. So it would arise in a context where the government offers evidence against Mr. Lefcourt's client and then he could raise an argument under that statute that the evidence is tainted by some unlawful act by the government. That is not the situation here. We're not offering any evidence as we stand here today. He has no basis. So that's one reason it doesn't apply.

A separate additional basis it doesn't apply is that you need more than to just say there's a foreign national involved in one of the multiple counts in the indictment. You need more than mere conjecture to say that he suspects that certain evidence being introduced against his client is tainted by some unlawful act. So, it's premature. It's based on mere conjecture.

And beyond all else, I think that the concerns he has at base are resolved by the government's representation.

Again, there is no Title III and that we are not relying on any FISA derived evidence or evidence derived from the other types of surveillance mentioned in the letter.

THE COURT: Mr. Lefcourt, do you have any authority on this that would make it the government's burden to produce it in a situation where the government is saying it's not using any such evidence derived in that manner?

MR. LEFCOURT: Your Honor, I will submit a letter to the Court, but just the theory of what the government is operating on is not correct. If there was illegal barring interceptions that led to evidence in this case maybe by vicarious means, maybe that the government's told by somebody or somebody in the FBI was told to look at this or look at that, if that were the basis, if that came from an illegal source that wasn't authorized by any court, then that would be tainted evidence. And it's just the fruit of the poisonous

tree.

Conjecture, if the CIA and NSA can't keep a secret from me, then we're all in trouble. Of course I don't know. That's why 3504 exists so that one could make a request under the appropriate case. This is the appropriate case because we would all saw that there national security ramifications to some of the conduct in this case. So it's simple checking with the agencies and telling the truth. Maybe they tell the court without admitting something confidential or national security-wise. But the court ought to know that it didn't start out somewhere somehow with an unauthorized interception.

I have been in FISA cases. The produce a FISA warrant. So this is clearly not FISA material. Otherwise they we would have told us about it. It's something else. And we've seen from news articles that there are massive interceptions of various kinds with algorithms to find out which cases ought to be focused on. And that's all we're requesting, an affirmance or denial that there is any of this kind of surveillance.

THE COURT: OK. Well, the government has responded to your letter. Why don't you, since I'm not that familiar the statute, why don't you submit a letter about any authorities you think I need to see and then if there is any particular requests, why don't you make that in the letter and then I'll take a look at it.

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

MR. MACMAHON: Your Honor, I think your question about whether it could be exculpatory information, I think really hits the nail on the head because just for the government to say they are not going to use any of this information doesn't answer the question of whether they've reviewed it or they've made any searches as to whether it's discoverable under Brady. There are statutory ways that the government can do this. can invoke the SEPA statute by itself and bring this information before you and say, I have information of an intercepted phone call. Is this discoverable? Is it not discoverable? So they have the right to do that. government can't just say, in response to a request that all of us joined in that we're not going to use this without peeling back the onion a little bit and saying, even again as Mr. Lefcourt has said it's done in ex parte, that's not really, that doesn't comply with the Brady obligations and it doesn't advance us especially when all these people are, not all of them, many of them are oversees and their phone calls could have been intercepted in many ways other than Title III and including ways that are even covered by FISA.

So we would suggest we need to put that in a letter to you as well so the Court can take a closer look at this as to whether the government can really just tell you there may have been on other surveillance but we're not going to rely on it.

We don't think that the would -- anybody's constitutional

JC2AAPARC Conference rights on this side of the aisle, your Honor. 1 2 THE COURT: Mr. Zolkind. MR. ZOLKIND: Your Honor, our letter also goes on to 3 say to the extent the defense's letter to us is intended as a 4 5 "request for discoverable materials under Rule 16 Brady v. 6 Maryland or Giglio. The government's already producing Rule 16 7 discovery and will continue to do so on a rolling basis. I'm summarizing now. 8 9 And the government recognizes its obligations under 10 Brady and its progeny and the same thing with respect to 11 Giglio. 12 Put differently, the government is fully aware of its 13 Brady and Giglio obligations, as well as Rule 16 obligations 14 don't depend on whether material happens to be classified or 15 not, and so we're taking those responsibilities very seriously. At this point, based on what we've identified to date, we don't 16 anticipate any classified discovery, nor do we anticipate 17 feeling a SEPA motion but we're continuing to review all the 18 19 appropriate material. And if that changes, we will promptly 20 notify the Court and the defense. 21 THE COURT: OK. Thank you. I'll look at any

authorities or any requests you make and any letters.

Anything further for today?

MR. BONDY: No, your Honor.

All right. THE COURT:

22

23

24

25

JC2AAPARC Conference

MR. ZOLKIND: Just a request, your Honor, to exclude time in the interest of justice, to enable the government to continue producing discovery and to enable the defense to review discovery and to evaluate any motions they may want to make. THE COURT: All right. I grant the application. Is there any objection, Mr. Bondy? MR. BONDY: No, your Honor.

MR. BLANCHE: No, your Honor.

MR. MACMAHON: No, your Honor.

MR. LEFCOURT: No, your Honor. Thank you.

THE COURT: I grant the application that excludes time under the Speedy Trial Act from today's date to February 23, 2020, the date of our next conference. I find the ends of justice outweigh the interests of the public and each of the defendants in a speedy trial given the time needed for the discovery to be produced by the government to the defendants and defense counsel and for the defendants and defense counsel to review the discovery and consider any possible motions.

So time is excluded to February 3, 2020, and I'll see you all on that date at two o'clock.

Thanks, everybody. We are adjourned.

(Adjourned)

24

23

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

25